

Overlord 611

Chapter 611: Rise of Conflict

The figure that had blocked the dragon-scaled elephant during the critical moment was Xiang Shaoyun's nether prison devil puppet. It turned out they were all heading toward the same direction after all. The puppet killed the dragon-scaled elephant with a punch, sending its heavy corpse crashing not far ahead, giving the other dragon-scaled elephants a scare.

However, they were known for their unity, and they would not let the death of their companion slide. They started stomping the ground repeatedly, cracking the ground as they spurted out some dreadful-looking energy. The energy attacks wrapped around the nether prison devil puppet.

The energy attacks released by the elephants seemed to be coming from everywhere, and any Emperor would have a hard time surviving. Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Ning Wenhua did not dare to stay around. They quickly dashed toward Xiang Shaoyun.

As for the nether prison devil puppet, it moved in a different direction, luring away all the dragon-scaled elephants. These big fellows seemed quite simple-minded, as all of them gave chase without a second thought. It wouldn't have been so easy to trick them if they were smarter.

"Are you guys alright?" Xiang Shaoyun asked the three.

"We wouldn't be if you hadn't arrived in time," said Tang Longfei with relish.

"Those dragon-scaled elephants are too scary. They were basically sending us to our deaths!" said Ning Wenhua as she patted her chest in fear.

"What happened exactly?" Xiang Shaoyun was confused.

"It's all the fault of that bastard Li Haonan," said Ning Wenhua indignantly as she started telling Xiang Shaoyun everything that happened.

After she finished, Tang Longfei said, "Although that fellow is probably using it as an excuse to vent a grudge, it's not fully his fault, really. After all, without anyone luring the dragon-scaled elephants away, nobody will be able to get the dragon liquid."

"You're still speaking for him? We don't even know if he will actually share the dragon liquid with us!" Ning Wenhuan said unhappily.

"You guys should go check if they have already gotten the dragon liquid. If they have and they aren't sharing, I'll get your share for you," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Shaoyun, aren't you coming with us?" Tang Longfei asked.

"I've already split off from the group, so I'm too embarrassed to rejoin now. But if you guys trust me, after settling your issue with them, come with me to look for more dragon liquid," said Xiang Shaoyun.

After entering the Dragon Ascension Realm, his draconic aura had solidified by 15 percent, and coupled with his comprehension of the profundity of earth, he was able to vaguely sense the existence of the dragon liquid underground. He also seemed capable of sensing the aura of the dragon liquid with his draconic aura. If he followed his senses, he might be able to harvest something. Furthermore, he had Money by his side as well. With the trace of dragon blood in his body, Money similarly had some sort of connection with the dragon liquid.

"Good. I have long gotten tired of that Li Haonan. I'll go with you," said Tang Longfei.

"They should be almost done by now. You should go get your share of the dragon liquid first," said Xiang Shaoyun after he sent his senses ahead of them.

And thus, Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Ning Wenhuan returned to Shou Xie, Li Haonan, and the others. At this time, Shou Xie and company had already harvested some dragon liquid relying on the treasure seeking mouse.

The dragon liquid was formed through a combination of natural spirit liquid and a tiny trace of draconic aura. The liquid had formed near the dragon-scaled elephant's territory, and a layer of crystallized spiritual energy surrounded each drop. There wasn't much, about 30 drops in total. However, just that much was already a considerable harvest for Shou Xie and company.

Including Tang Longfei's group of three, there were 14 of them. Each of them could get an average of 2 drops. Li Haonan and the others were astonished when they saw Tang Longfei's group of three returning. Evidently, they had not expected the group to return safely. After all, they shouldn't have been able to withstand the attacks of the furious dragon-scaled elephants.

"You're back just in time, Big Brother Tang! The six drops here are your share," said Shou Xie cheerily as he handed them three jade bottles.

But just as Tang Longfei was about to accept the bottles, Li Haonan reached out and snatched them away first.

"Li Haonan, what is the meaning of this!" Tang Longfei was infuriated.

Shou Xie's expression also turned unsightly. "Brother Li, isn't that going overboard?"

"Shou Xie, this has nothing to do with you. Consider this the compensation for the trouble Xiang Shaoyun brought us. If we find more, we can start sharing with them," said Li Haonan with a sneer. Hearing that, Tang Longfei couldn't even be bothered to say anything. He directly threw out a furious punch.

Celestial Dragon Fist!

The fist flew forward like a shining golden dragon. This was Tang Longfei's full-powered attack. He could no longer stand Li Haonan for making things difficult for them over and over again. Even if the other party was someone ranked on the Jiao Luan List, he still had to teach them a lesson. Li Haonan was already anticipating an attack. A blue shield of light appeared before him, and it rippled with a gentle power, unloading the force of Tang Longfei's punch.

"You're trying to fight me with just this much strength? How naive!" Li Haonan said with disdain. He attacked with a palm thrust, sending an energy palm crashing forth like a wave toward Tang Longfei.

Gentle Quickwave Palm!

Bang!

The attack came too fast, and Tang Longfei was struck before he could do anything. Initially, the palm did not feel powerful. But just as Tang Longfei was about to shrug it off and attack, he sensed a power akin to a tsunami erupt within him, and it sent him flying away. If it wasn't for his armor, the palm strike would have caused him terrible injuries.

To the side, Lady Shura drew her weapon as the Shura's Battle Projection appeared around her. She attacked Li Haonan, and Ning Wenhua did not stand around doing nothing either. She erupted with power and stabbed her sword at Li Haonan.

"You wish to die? Sure, I'll grant that wish!" said Li Haonan as he erupted with two different powers, one blue and one green. A dragon projection of two colors appeared around him, revealing his strength as a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, and he attacked with both his palms.

Two translucent palm energies flew toward and destroyed the two women's attacks before continuing toward the two. The gap between the two and Li Haonan was too big, and that single attack beat them into retreat.

"I'll give you a chance to submit to me. Otherwise, I don't mind wiping all of you out," said Li Haonan smugly, as if he was the lord of the universe.

They were all genius cultivators, but Li Haonan had a higher cultivation level. Furthermore, he cultivated two powers, and he had the strength to back his arrogance. As for the others, they did not say anything. They only stood there as if watching a good show unfold.

Just as Shou Xie was about to say something, a voice laced with contempt rang out, "A trash like you dreams of recruiting Big Brother Tang and the others? Why don't you take a good look at yourself in a mirror made of your own pee?"

Chapter 612: Looks Like You Still Don't Know Remorse

The ethereal voice was hard to pinpoint, but they could clearly tell it was Xiang Shaoyun's voice. However, when they searched their surroundings, they couldn't see him anywhere.

Li Haonan frowned and shouted, "Xiang Shaoyun, stop playing your petty tricks! Show yourself and face me if you have the guts!"

"Save those words for when you have actually found me. You sure are gutsy to have the galls to offend Big Brother Tang and my woman," Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out again.

Incorporeal murderous intent accompanied his voice, causing the atmosphere to turn nervous. Li Haonan did not dare to be careless. His body rippled with power as he activated his strongest

defense. At the same time, he pushed his senses to their limits, trying to search for Xiang Shaoyun. He refused to believe that Xiang Shaoyun could really become invisible. Little did he know, Xiang Shaoyun had indeed become invisible. He was already standing right in front of them, but not one of them could sense him.

"Looks like you don't intend to show yourself. I'll just have to make you show yourself," said Li Haonan as he dashed toward Tang Longfei. Seemingly boundless energy gathered in both his palms, and he slammed them toward Tang Longfei. Unfortunately for him, before his attack could even reach Tang Longfei, Xiang Shaoyun's attack reached him first.

Pa!

Instead of killing Li Haonan immediately, Xiang Shaoyun gave him a heavy slap on the face. Before Li Haonan could even realize he had been slapped, he felt the burning pain on his face and crashed into the ground. He couldn't be bothered to deal with the pain he was feeling on his face, and he immediately swung his two swords with both his hands.

Several powerful and dreadful sword energies slashed forward, slicing numerous cracks into the ground and felling numerous trees. Alas, Xiang Shaoyun was already hovering right above him, and he heavily kicked Li Haonan's head, sending his face crashing into the ground. The impact broke several of his teeth.

"I hadn't put you in line earlier because I couldn't be bothered. Yet you are actually acting so smugly? You really have a death wish, don't you?" said Xiang Shaoyun with a cold snort.

"Xiang Shaoyun! Show yourself and die!" Li Haonan bounced off the ground and waved his swords randomly above him, sending numerous slashes into the sky, creating green and blue fireworks of sword energy. The energy created a concentrated net that not even a fly could escape. An expert on the Jiao Luan List truly couldn't be underestimated. This attack alone was enough to kill regular fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm experts.

"Looks like you still don't know remorse," said Xiang Shaoyun with a disappointed tone. He approached Li Haonan before slapping him repeatedly.

Pa! Pa!

The slaps stunned Li Haonan. He had never suffered such humiliation before. He was attacking with his full strength, but the slaps had messed up his energy circulation, causing him to suffer the backlash of his own energy. He couldn't even begin to imagine how swollen his face had become.

The people around them were all dumbfounded as well. Similarly, none of them could see Xiang Shaoyun. The only thing they saw was Li Haonan being attacked by nothing. Each of them was a knowledgeable genius, yet this was their first time seeing such a sight. It filled them with disbelief. In fact, even Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Ning Wenhua were shocked.

"Does Shaoyun possess an ability that lets him go invisible? Or a technique to attack through thin air?" Tang Longfei muttered to himself.

"I think the latter is more likely. Perfect invisibility is not possible," said Ning Wenhua.

Lady Shura remained silent, but she believed that invisibility was the more likely option. After all, although attacking through thin air was a wondrous trick, one probably needed to be a Soul Foundation Realm expert to do that from a long distance while remaining completely concealed.

Regardless, Xiang Shaoyun was now giving them the impression he was deep and unmeasurable. In fact, none of them even dared to harbor any hostile thoughts about him. Otherwise, they could die without even knowing how it happened.

Eventually, Li Haonan showed fear after all the beating. He begged, "N-no, please stop. I-I submit!"

He couldn't even see where Xiang Shaoyun was, yet he was already being beaten so badly. At the same time, he was still suffering the backlash of his own energy. If he did not submit, he would probably suffer a terrible ending.

Xiang Shaoyun did not intend to push it too much. Rather, he berated, "Now you know regret? Alright, hand them their share of dragon liquid. Also, hand over your share of dragon liquid as well. Consider it the payment for sparing your life."

Li Haonan did as told without daring to say anything, offering all three drops of dragon liquid he had. He was afraid that Xiang Shaoyun would really kill him. The group had two additional drops of dragon liquid which were shared between Shou Xie and Li Haonan since he was the strongest person in the group. Alas, not only had he completely embarrassed himself, he did not have a single drop left for himself.

Xiang Shaoyun accepted the dragon liquid without hesitation before giving Li Haonan a kick. "Scram. Remember to get out of our sight each time you encounter us in the academy. I will beat you up every time I see you."

Li Haonan didn't dare to say anything. He got back up and quickly left gloomily. There was nothing he could do to an invisible enemy at all. Only those geniuses with unique eyes could handle invisibility. Even after Li Haonan left, Xiang Shaoyun remained concealed. He merely asked Tang Longfei's group of three to leave with him.

Shou Xie quickly called out, "Young Master Xiang, take us along! With my treasure seeking mouse, we can find more of the dragon liquid!"

"You, Jin Shui, and Ling Lin can come. The others can forget it," Xiang Shaoyun's voice rang out.

Shou Xie, Jin Shui, and Ling Lin were overjoyed. After bidding their goodbyes to the others, they left with Tang Longfei's group. The others wanted to join as well, but nobody had the courage to mention it. After all, they had been treating Tang Longfei's group badly because of the trouble Xiang Shaoyun had brought them. It would be too embarrassing for them to request to follow now.

"Let's go. Time for us to return," Yan Gang said with a sigh.

"Maybe we can search for it ourselves?" Zhong Xia suggested.

"Sure we can, but any place the dragon liquid can be found will also be filled with powerful demonic beasts. With our strength, dealing with those beasts will be a problem. Let's just return. Focus on preserving our lives," said Yan Gang as he took the lead and left.

Chapter 613: Dragon Liquid, Obtained

The only reason Xiang Shaoyun had accepted Shou Xie, Jin Shui, and Ling Lin was because they had once fought alongside each other. The three had conducted themselves well, and he decided to give them a chance. He wouldn't have allowed them to join otherwise.

Now, Xiang Shaoyun was the leader of the group of seven humans and demonic beasts. A considerable amount of dragon liquid had formed within the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range, and it was up to them to look for it.

With the treasure seeking mouse, Shou Xie had gained his first three drops. It wouldn't be easy to push the mouse to look for more. Fortunately, Xiang Shaoyun had his senses to rely on. They were heading toward an area with dragon liquid.

Along the way, they encountered a number of demonic beasts, but they were able to take a detour or escape in time without fighting too much. When they arrived at their destination, they found that it was a territory of a clan of draconic lizards.

The draconic lizards weren't any weaker than the dragon-scaled elephants. In fact, they were slightly stronger. It wouldn't be an easy feat to snatch the dragon liquid from their territory.

Xiang Shaoyun made the others stay behind while he entered invisibility and searched for the dragon liquid within a certain cave belonging to a draconic lizard. However, a dreadful Sovereign draconic lizard was residing in the cave. It was most likely a mid-stage Sovereign, its strength fearsome.

Xiang Shaoyun had thought that his plan would succeed so long as he could sneak into the cave with his invisibility. But the slumbering draconic lizard Emperor actually opened its eyes and started sniffing the air when he entered, as if it had sensed him.

"Where is this human smell coming from?" the draconic lizard Emperor muttered with a piercing voice.

At that, Xiang Shaoyun sneaked out of the cave, not daring to stay a second longer. After he returned to the group, he got the others to retreat with him as well. He did not dare to even stay in the cave's vicinity.

"There's a scary draconic lizard there. He almost found me. It will be hard to steal the dragon liquid from him," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Each location of dragon liquid will be guarded by powerful demons. Looks like none of the academy missions are easy," said Tang Longfei with a sigh.

"So, are we returning, or are we going to continue our search somewhere else?" Shou Xie asked.

Xiang Shaoyun sank into thought for a bit before answering, "You guys find somewhere safe and hide there. I will lure him out with the puppet before I sneak inside and steal the dragon liquid."

"Won't that be too dangerous?" Lady Shura asked.

"Don't worry. I'll be fine," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

The others didn't say anything when they saw how confident Xiang Shaoyun was. Inwardly, they were ashamed that they couldn't be of any help. After the others left, Xiang Shaoyun started his plan. He used the same plan, sending the nether prison devil puppet to attack the draconic lizard's cave.

Infuriated, the draconic lizard charged out of the cave and battled the puppet. The draconic lizard was indeed fearsome. He was a fifth-stage Demon Sovereign, and he revealed a combat prowess comparable to a human sixth-stage Emperor. The nether prison devil puppet was unable to use devilish energy, and it could only fight with pure physical strength. Even so, it managed to fight the lizard to a standstill.

As the battle raged on, Xiang Shaoyun snuck into the cave and found a hole containing a pile of high-grade spirit crystals. A considerable amount of high-level spirit spring liquid could be found in the hole as well. From the liquid's fragrance and the milky white appearance, Xiang Shaoyun was certain it was an emperor-grade spirit spring liquid.

Although the liquid had yet to transform fully into a spirit spring of life, it was not far from becoming one. Apart from the spirit spring, the spirit crystals seemed to contain some sort of liquid drops that looked more like tiny dragons. These were most certainly droplets of dragon liquid.

In his joy, Xiang Shaoyun exclaimed, "That draconic lizard sure knows how to enjoy life. He actually built a spiritual pool like this for himself? Well, thank you very much, then!"

Without a doubt, Xiang Shaoyun was planning to steal everything in the pool, not leaving anything for the lizard. Just as he was about to make a move, he noticed three extraordinary looking spiritual herbs growing beside the pile of spirit crystals.

When he focused on the plants, joy covered his face as he muttered, "Half-life draconic lizard herb? This is a treasure as well!"

The so-called half-life draconic lizard herb was a spiritual herb that would grow alongside draconic lizards. Shaped like an actual draconic lizard, the plant would only turn into a true spiritual herb with the nourishment of draconic lizard's blood essence and essence energy.

The three stalks had yet to reach the level of a sovereign medicine, but they were most certainly emperor medicines. Each stalk contained an amount of energy comparable to 10 drops of dragon liquid. Without waiting any longer, Xiang Shaoyun started harvesting everything.

Fortunately, the pool wasn't too big. Otherwise, it would take him a much longer time to dig it out. Outside, the draconic lizard who was battling the nether prison devil puppet sensed something going on within his cave, causing him to break free and rush back.

When Xiang Shaoyun sensed the draconic lizard heading back, his nerves grew tense. He had the nether prison devil puppet stop the draconic lizard with all its strength while he directly released his Nether Soul Domain, trying to use the power of the domain to help dig the entire place up. After he was done, he immediately stuffed everything into his astral cosmos sea.

It was at that moment that the draconic lizard entered the cave, cramping the cave with his massive body. Xiang Shaoyun was so frightened his hair stood on end, and he quickly dashed out of the cave while sticking close to the wall.

Hiss! Hiss!

The draconic lizard was infuriated to find his treasure stolen. Sniffing at the air, he quickly locked on to Xiang Shaoyun's position and clawed at him furiously.

"Nether prison devil puppet!" Xiang Shaoyun quickly summoned the puppet over to provide assistance. The puppet dashed over, grabbed the draconic lizard's tail, and forcefully dragged the draconic lizard out of the cave. And thus, Xiang Shaoyun was able to barely avert the calamity.

He patted his chest and muttered, "This young master nearly pissed his pants in fright!"

He normally acted like he feared nothing, but he also feared death like everyone else. Without delay, he fled at his full speed. Nowadays, he was able to keep his Nether Shadow Evanescence active for a long period of time, long enough for him to escape far away.

As for the nether prison devil puppet, after luring the draconic lizard toward a different direction, it returned to Xiang Shaoyun. The draconic lizard did not bother giving chase to the nether prison devil puppet. After all, he couldn't actually do much to the puppet, and his priority was figuring out who stole his treasure. After meeting up with the puppet, Xiang Shaoyun returned to Tang Longfei and company.

"We need to leave immediately!" Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to stay and quickly got them to leave with him. He was afraid that the draconic lizard, mad with fury, would suddenly appear. Things would then get really troublesome.

Chapter 614: Discovery of an Underground Palace

The theft had indeed greatly angered the draconic lizard. For a long time after, the draconic lizard had ripped any human apart who so much as stepped into his territory. In fact, peace only returned after an academy overseer personally put down the draconic lizard.

Although the Dragon Phoenix Mountain Range was the demons' territory, the fact that the Dragon Phoenix Academy could be built here meant that they had the strength to contend against the demons. The draconic lizard's act of wantonly slaughtering humans was naturally not something the academy would put up with. Of course, this all happened in the future.

Xiang Shaoyun had quickly rejoined Tang Longfei and company after stealing from the draconic lizard. After fleeing far away from the draconic lizard's territory, Xiang Shaoyun took out the dragon liquid he found and gave each of the people present five drops in addition to five drops of the emperor-grade healing spring liquid. They were all filled with excitement after receiving their share.

"Young Master Xiang, a-aren't these too much? We haven't contributed anything!" Shou Xie said, feeling somewhat embarrassed.

"Just take it. Since you guys have the guts to come, at least the effort counts," said Xiang Shaoyun nonchalantly.

He had reaped a great harvest this time. Disregarding the pool of emperor-grade liquid, he had also harvested over 100 drops of dragon liquid. He had only shared about one third of his harvest and still kept the majority for himself. Although he was the only one who had worked for the harvest, he did not keep everything for himself. His generosity was evident.

Shou Xie, Jin Shui, and Ling Lin were filled with admiration. If they were in a similar situation, they wouldn't have been so generous.

"Haha, it has always been profitable following Shaoyun," said Tang Longfei with a hearty laugh.

Ning Wenhua was also filled with gratitude. "I, Ning Wenhua, will definitely help without hesitation if you need anything from me in the future, Young Master Xiang."

The dragon liquid was incomparably precious. Each drop would benefit their cultivation greatly. One could say that with this harvest alone, they could complete the mission on a perfect note. Just one drop of dragon liquid was worth 200,000 contribution points, which they could do a lot with. One could say that getting the dragon liquid had benefited them in multiple aspects.

Xiang Shaoyun shrugged indifferently. "We are all friends. There is no need to be too polite."

They did not end their search after the big harvest. It hadn't even been a month since they had left the academy, so they had plenty of time. During the coming time, Xiang Shaoyun relied on his senses and the treasure seeking mouse to locate two more places with dragon liquid.

Both places did not have much dragon liquid, but they had instead obtained some king and emperor medicines, so their harvest was still decent. Of course, they had also gotten into many difficult fights. Fortunately, they had Xiang Shaoyun to keep them safe. Just as they were about to end their search, the treasure seeking mouse discovered something astonishing.

"Young Master Xiang, the treasure seeking mouse has discovered an underground palace!" Shou Xie informed Xiang Shaoyun of the news.

Everyone was shocked.

Xiang Shaoyun's eyes lit up as he asked, "Where?"

"Right within the valley ahead of us, but it's filled with poisonous miasma and other powerful poisonous life forms. Moreover, some of our fellow academy members are nearby. Looks like they have discovered something as well," said Shou Xie. "A powerful formation surrounds the underground palace, one that massively pressured the treasure seeking mouse from a distance and forced it to give up on advancing and return to us."

Generally, the treasure seeking mouse was allowed to roam free instead of being kept around them. It would usually return to Shou Xie so long as it discovered something. It was the same this time.

"Let's go check it out," decided Xiang Shaoyun without any hesitation.

Inwardly, he mused, The divine site can't be here, right?

He had the urge to take a look at the map he was given, but he restrained himself from doing so since he still couldn't verify if the underground palace was in fact the divine site. And thus, the group advanced under the treasure seeking mouse's lead. After about an hour, they arrived near a valley surrounded by poisonous miasma. They stopped, not daring to go any deeper.

The poisonous miasma was rather powerful, and the vegetation in the area was all withered and dead. A rotten smell hung in the air, and some poisonous life forms were hidden within the miasma. If the groups somehow survived the miasma, the life forms would bite them to death. In fact, the ground just ahead of them was stained in blood. Evidently, someone had left the bloodstains not too long ago.

"What a powerful poison. With our strength, entering will only mean death," said Tang Longfei with a sigh.

"That's right. We can say that this is a place protected naturally. Not even a powerful Soul Foundation Realm expert would dare to delve too deeply. Who knows if there are any more powerful poisonous life forms inside," said Shou Xie.

Xiang Shaoyun remained silent as he scanned the situation within the miasma with his Nether Soul Domain. The further he extended his senses, the more dangerous the poisonous miasma felt. He also discovered a group of about a dozen people struggling to rush out not far ahead of them. Gradually, he got a clear look at the group. Di Lin and Di Shang were actually part of the group.

The moment they rushed out of the miasma, they dashed toward a different direction. A group of dreadful poisonous beasts was chasing after them, constantly spurting poison from their mouths. With a single touch from the poison, those who weren't fast enough would be helplessly reduced into a pile of blood.

During the moment of crisis, Di Lin tossed out a peak Emperor puppet to block the poisonous beasts. Only then did they manage to flee safely. Xiang Shaoyun had the urge to chase after them and strike them while they were down, but he decided against it after some hesitation.

He had a feeling the group was being protected by a very powerful person. He did not dare to act rashly. If there really was a hidden expert somewhere, he would be the one to fall into danger instead.

A gentleman can always afford to wait before taking his revenge. It won't be long before I harvest all your heads, thought Xiang Shaoyun to himself.

He then said to the others, "Let's leave. This place is filled with poison. Even if there is an underground palace here, it is not a place we can explore."

The others agreed.

Xiang Shaoyun warned, "Also, make sure none of you speak about this, or we might invite great trouble upon ourselves."

They naturally understood what he meant. News of this would move even the upper echelons of the academy. When that happened, they would attract everyone's attention, and they might even be forced to explore the poison miasma so as to prove their words. Since a different group had also found the valley, it was better to let the other group spread the news. As for what would happen after that, there was no way of guessing.

Chapter 615: Overlord Legion

Di Lin and company who had fled far away looked extremely sorry. They had begun the trip with over 30 people, but fewer than 10 had survived. Their loss was disastrous. They would definitely receive strict punishments from the academy after news of their loss spread. After all, each disciple was considered the academy's treasure. A death or two could be overlooked, but over 20 deaths would cause rather big consequences.

Although the academy would temper their disciples harshly, they wouldn't accept their disciples dying for no apparent reason. Di Lin did not seem to mind. He called his elder brother Di Shang to his side and spoke through voice transmission, "You should return to the Ziling Sect immediately and tell Father everything. As for what will happen next, it no longer has anything to do with us."

"Little brother, what if the others spread the news of what happened?" Di Shang asked with a frown.

"Don't worry. They won't have the chance," Di Lin said with a sharp glint in his eyes.

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Xiang Shaoyun and company did not spend a second longer at the valley filled with poisonous miasma. They started their return journey to the academy. On their way back, they did not forget to gather some more treasures in passing. One could say that they were returning from a rewarding journey.

When they neared the academy, Shou Xie said solemnly, "Young Master Xiang, from today onward, we will be following you. I hope you can take care of us!"

Although Shou Xie was also a special recruit and was not lacking in talent, there was still a big gap between him and the many genius disciples. He might be able to control demonic beasts, but it did not seem possible to obtain power in the academy relying on that alone. After more interactions with Xiang Shaoyun, he had a feeling it was time he made a choice.

He was confident Xiang Shaoyun would not be willing to keep a low profile forever. Sooner or later, he would unite a group of people under his lead. Taking the chance when Xiang Shaoyun had yet to do that, Shou Xie decided to join. That way, he would be considered a senior figure in Xiang Shaoyun's faction in the future. It would give him a status that was entirely different from being an ordinary member.

Xiang Shaoyun did not reject the offer. He smiled and said, "Feel free to look for me if you have any issues in the future. I won't dare to promise I can solve everything, but I won't have a problem solving anything that isn't too big of a deal!"

"Allow me to thank you in advance, then!" said Shou Xie with joy. "In truth, with your strength, you can totally start your own faction!"

Tang Longfei nodded and joined in, "That's right. Shaoyun, it is something worth considering. This is a good opportunity for you."

The academy was filled with the geniuses of the dominion. It would be very beneficial for Xiang Shaoyun's future power if he could recruit them. That was the reason why many geniuses had established their own factions in the academy.

Prior to this, Xiang Shaoyun had been focused on cultivating and hadn't gotten the chance to properly consider forming a faction. Now that they were talking about it, he was tempted. He was clear that one person might be powerful, but many people together would be even more powerful.

Now, a perfect opportunity lay before him. Since he was already a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, it wouldn't be hard for him to proclaim his own hegemony within the academy. Now was the perfect timing for him to rise.

"Let's do it! Together, we will shake the world!" Xiang Shaoyun clapped his hands and agreed in a straightforward manner.

The others were filled with excitement upon hearing his agreement. At present, they were still independent disciples in the academy. With Xiang Shaoyun stepping up as the leader, it signified that their position in the academy would stabilize. People would no longer dare to easily create trouble for them.

"If we're forming a faction, we need to think of a proper name, then," said Lady Shura.

Without taking any time to think, Xiang Shaoyun said, "Let's call it Ziling Sect."

Tang Longfei quickly objected, "Shaoyun, you shouldn't act on your emotions. We know what you're thinking, but it's not a proper name. Even your father won't agree to it. He would instead hope for you to surpass him!"

Tang Longfei understood what Xiang Shaoyun was thinking. He merely wanted to rebuild Ziling Sect and reclaim everything his father had built. But Tang Longfei did not wish to see him do that in the academy.

After all, if the disciples knew his actual intention of establishing the faction, not many would be willing to join. After all, a disciple would only join a faction in the hope of gaining some companions that would watch each other's back in the academy. Having companions would help them grow better and obtain more cultivation resources.

After graduating and returning to where they came from, they might not necessarily be willing to share the task of reclaiming a sect alongside Xiang Shaoyun. Tang Longfei did not say all that, but Xiang Shaoyun understood what he meant.

"There's no rush. So long as you have the intention to do so, all is fine," said Shou Xie.

Xiang Shaoyun nodded, and the group continued heading back to the academy. Along the way, he continued thinking of a name and a goal for his faction. Slowly, a clear idea formed in his mind.

Before they reached the academy, Xiang Shaoyun declared, "I am a self-proclaimed overlord. Let's call our faction the Overlord Legion. As for our motto, it will be, 'Don't mess with us, and we won't mess with you. Mess with us, and we will return it 10 times over.' "

"Overlord Legion, that's a good name. And the motto, it's good too. Mess with us, and we will return it 10 times over! It practically radiates dominance!"

Shou Xie also agreed, "I think so as well. In the future, you will be our overlord, Young Master Xiang!"

As he said that, he bowed deeply to Xiang Shaoyun, formalizing his status as Xiang Shaoyun's follower.

Jin Shi and Ling Li did the same as well, and they called out, "Overlord!"

Tang Longfei, Lady Shura, and Ning Wenhua quickly followed suit. Xiang Shaoyun wanted to stop Tang Longfei from bowing as well, but after giving it some thought, he decided against it. Although he addressed Tang Longfei as his big brother, the dignity of an organization's overlord needed to be preserved.

"Very well. You are all the faction's senior members. From now on, Shou Xie will be in charge of information gathering. Big Brother Tang and Big Sister Ning will be in charge of recruitment. Lady Shura will be in charge of communication between members. I don't care about the strength of our members. Loyalty is my only priority. Those unwilling to obey will not be accepted regardless of strength. All members shall help each other, and we shall never abandon a member in need. Those who betray their fellow members shall be expelled for light offenses. As for serious offenses, do not blame me for being ruthless," declared Xiang Shaoyun solemnly.

"Yes, Overlord!" the others answered.

"Very good. After we return, I shall fight the first battle on behalf of our Overlord Legion and spread our name throughout the academy!" said Xiang Shaoyun with thick battle intent. He already had a target to challenge. By defeating that person, not only could he vent his anger, he could also spread the fame of the Overlord Legion throughout the academy.

Chapter 616: Consuming the Dragon Liquid

The first thing Xiang Shaoyun and company did after returning to the academy was to submit the dragon liquid at the Missions Hall for some contribution points. The amount of dragon liquid they submitted differed individually. Tang Longfei, Shou Xie, and the others only submitted a drop each for 200,000 contributions, while Xiang Shaoyun submitted five drops for 1 million contribution points.

He had submitted that much because he wanted to enter the academy's nine unique cultivation zones. If he cultivated only one type of power, he wouldn't have needed so many contribution points. But since he cultivated nine powers, he needed a lot of points to enter all nine zones.

Although he had earned over one million contribution points through duels, he believed he needed more. After all, the academy had deep foundations, and anything good he wanted from the academy required contribution points.

Thus, it would never be a bad idea to get more points. However, news of Xiang Shaoyun submitting five drops of dragon liquid in one go quickly spread among the disciples. It gave them an urge to snatch the dragon liquid in his possession. But he was already strong enough to enter the Jiao Luan List. Who would dare to easily attack him?

A number of disciples arrived, trying to trade for the dragon liquid instead. These geniuses came from all corners of the dominion and had quite a collection of treasures. Not one thing they could offer would be an ordinary item.

Unfortunately for them, Xiang Shaoyun immediately entered a secluded cultivation session without meeting anyone. The disciples wishing to trade had no choice but to wait gloomily.

Although they could also trade for dragon liquid from the academy, they needed to pay 300,000 contribution points per drop. That was a 50 percent increase in price. One ought to admit that the academy was making a killing with such a deal. Thus, the disciples would rather wait for Xiang Shaoyun.

Naturally, they had also looked for Shou Xie, Tang Longfei, and the others. But they had also entered seclusion, refusing to meet anyone. With dragon liquid in hand, it would be odd if they did not immediately start cultivating in seclusion. The dragon liquid could hasten the speed in which one's astral energy transformed into draconic aura, strengthening a cultivator rapidly.

Competition in the academy was extremely stiff among the disciples, each trying to outdo one another for a better ranking.

In the gravity room, Xiang Shaoyun quickly refined nine drops of dragon liquid. The nine drops entered his nine stars, transforming the energy within into strands of draconic aura.

"Roar! Roar!"

The roars of a dragon sounded within his body as his energy surged and converged on his spine, enhancing his draconic aura and kick-starting a rapid growth. Each drop of dragon liquid contained a massive amount of energy capable of producing a rich amount of draconic aura after combining with astral energy.

Generally, nine drops of dragon liquid were enough to help a Dragon Ascension Realm advance an entire cultivation stage. But for Xiang Shaoyun, his draconic aura only grew by four percent.

His draconic aura solidification had already reached 15 percent before this. With the additional 4 percent, he reached 19 percent, reaching peak first-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. One more percent would push him straight into the second-stage.

It was obvious how valuable the dragon liquid was. It was practically the best elixir to help one grow during the Dragon Ascension Realm. Of course, as one grew in cultivation, the amount of draconic aura required to advance would increase, resulting in one needing more dragon liquid.

The dragon liquid had only worked so well because Xiang Shaoyun had just entered the Dragon Ascension Realm. He still had a decent amount of dragon liquid, but he did not use it to push him into the second stage.

He needed to first properly temper his first-stage cultivation base before advancing. Rapid advancement wasn't necessarily good for one's comprehension of one's cultivation realm. He was

already a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator at the young age of 20. This was fast enough a cultivation speed.

Even within the Dragon Phoenix Academy, few could compare with him in terms of growth speed. After he ended the cultivation session, he started going through his hauls from his recent expedition. To be precise, the hauls referred to the loot he had obtained from killing the two assassin groups.

After taking everything out and sweeping his eyes through them, a look of satisfaction appeared on his face. Each of the storage rings he had gathered contained numerous items of differing values. For him, this was a considerable sum of wealth.

The only regret he had was his failure to kill the Sovereign in the group. If he had, he would have had an even larger harvest. The Sovereign would probably be so infuriated he started coughing blood from anger if he knew what Xiang Shaoyun was thinking. A puny Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator was thinking of killing a Soul Foundation Realm cultivator like him? Was he really that weak?

After seven days, Xiang Shaoyun finally ended his seclusion. After he left his room, Lady Shura appeared before him and updated him on the events during his seclusion.

"You're saying a lot of people want to purchase my dragon liquid?" Xiang Shaoyun asked with astonishment.

After he left the Missions Hall, he had been cooped up in his cultivation room. He had no idea so many people were interested in his dragon liquid. After all, the academy had dragon liquid for sale. Why would they need to buy from him?

"Yes. We've all encountered eager buyers. After all, the academy is selling a drop for 300,000 contribution points. Thus, they are offering to trade for our dragon liquid with some other items instead," said Lady Shura.

Xiang Shaoyun considered it for a moment before he smiled and said, "What do you think about luring people to join our Overlord Legion with the dragon liquid?"

"What do you mean?" Lady Shura couldn't understand what he was getting at.

"Anyone joining will be rewarded a drop of dragon liquid. They will also be allowed to trade for the dragon liquid I have as necessary," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Lady Shura's pupils constricted as she gasped, "A lot of people will go mad after hearing your offer. However, I don't think you will gain their loyalty through such a recruitment method."

"You're right. But that drop of dragon liquid will serve as both a chance for them to join us and for us to know them. Those who dare to go against our values will have to suffer our rage, whoever they are!" said Xiang Shaoyun. "Go get Big Brother Tang, Big Sister Ning, Shou Xie, and the others. We'll talk about it. If they agree, we will do so. Of course, if we do decide to move ahead with this plan, we have to do it at the correct timing."

Lady Shura nodded and prepared to leave.

It was at this time that Xiang Shaoyun called at her and said, "Also, help me send the dragon liquid here to 2 Phoenix Villa."

A look of astonishment flashed past Lady Shura's face. However, she left with the dragon liquid without asking anything.

Chapter 617: Legion Recruitment

At 2 Phoenix Villa.

When Han Chenfei received the dragon liquid Xiang Shaoyun had sent her, a dazzling smile bloomed on her face as she muttered, "What an interesting person."

Beside her, Han Lingshuang asked, "Young palace master, what is his meaning? Is he thanking you for accepting Han Qianwei and Han Xuwei?"

"Hehe, no. If that were the case, he would not send this much dragon liquid over. There are 10 whole drops here!" said Han Chenfei with a smile.

"Are these drops of dragon liquid meant for the sisters, then? What about you, young palace master?" asked Han Lingshuang with doubt. "Young palace master, it is obvious that Xiang Shaoyun is unable to forget them. I can also see that they have real feelings for him. There is really no point in keeping them here. We should just send them off—"

"Enough," Han Chenfei's cold voice interrupted her before she could finish. "You can stop guessing randomly. He sent the dragon liquid here for two reasons. First, to thank me, showing that we are friends instead of enemies. Secondly, he is telling me to take more care of the sisters. He's also making it clear that they aren't hiding anything from me, so we don't have to over-analyze their relationship."

Berated, Han Lingshuang shut her mouth. But inwardly, she shifted her anger toward the sisters. And when she heard that Han Chenfei was going to leave a few drops of dragon liquid for the sisters, the envy and fury in her heart reached a boiling point.

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That day, a shocking piece of news spread from 1 Dragon Villa.

The master of 1 Dragon Villa had officially established the Overlord Legion faction. Xiang Shaoyun was hereby known as the Overlord. His current followers consisted of Tang Longfei, Shou Xie, Lady Shura, Ning Wenhua, and a few others. Anyone able to join the faction would be rewarded with a drop of dragon liquid. Members of the faction would be allowed to trade for more dragon liquid with items of equal value. A total of 10 spots were open, and the recruitment was on a first-come, first-served basis.

The news struck the academy disciples like a bolt of lightning. Each drop of dragon liquid was worth 300,000 contribution points. Many people needed over half a year to gather that many points, and it wasn't uncommon for one to take a year.

And now, the Overlord Legion was rewarding their new members with a drop each. Their actions were exceedingly generous. Furthermore, members were also allowed to trade for more dragon liquid with items of equal value, which signified that the faction had a considerable amount of dragon liquid on hand.

"Overlord Legion? What an old-fashioned name. But that reward is really generous. I wonder if it will be a trap?"

"They're trying to attract elites into the Overlord Legion just like that? Aren't they taking recruitment too lightly? Is Xiang Shaoyun not afraid that some people will only join to fish in troubled water?"

"Xiang Shaoyun actually took on the title Overlord? That fellow is really quite bold, isn't he? Looks like I need to challenge him and crush his confidence somewhat."

"Well, time to join the Overlord Legion. That drop of dragon liquid will be enough to push me into the Emperor Realm."

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There were numerous reactions to the news. Some disciples were filled with disdain, some were attracted, and some were envious. Regardless, a large number of people headed toward 1 Dragon Villa.

All of them came with one goal: obtain the dragon liquid. As for what would happen in the future, they would think about it after getting what they wanted. When they arrived, the first batch of applicants was allowed inside the villa while the rest were made to wait outside.

Looking at the 10 people standing before him, Xiang Shaoyun released and wrapped an incorporeal pressure around them as he asked, "Why do you want to join the Overlord Legion? Start from the left. Those who can answer the question correctly will be allowed to stay. Pick your words wisely."

Not one of them was a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Most of them were stuck at peak King Realm, their draconic aura completion at about 80 or 90 percent.

The first person answered, "I wish to fight alongside the Overlord Legion, spreading our glory throughout the academy!"

The second person answered, "I am in awe of your strength, Overlord. I wish to become your follower."

The third person answered, "Overlord Legion, a domineering name. As for your title as the Overlord, it is a name that one can look up to. Therefore, I decided I want to be part of the Overlord Legion."

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They gave different answers, each trying to butter him up in a different way. Evidently, they were all trying to leave a good impression. Alas, only one person was allowed to stay.

That person was the eighth to answer, his answer being: "I'm here for the dragon liquid."

That was why Xiang Shaoyun had allowed him to stay. When the others heard the result, they were indignant and even questioned Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun answered, "He has the guts to speak his mind, while you lot are being all secretive about your motive. Are you not ashamed to continue staying here? Look at your attitude, where is the admiration and respect you claim to have for me? Stop lying already!"

Sure enough, after those words, they were too ashamed to remain and left gloomily. Next, the second batch of applicants were allowed in.

Xiang Shaoyun asked a different question, "After joining the Overlord Legion, what is the first thing you will do?"

The first person asked, "Serve the Legion and earn glory for the Legion!"

The second person answered, "Get even more dragon liquid for the Legion to repay the Legion!"

The third person answered, "I will stick to my station and perform my duties as required by the Legion!"

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Two people were allowed to stay this time. After about two hours, a total of 15 applicants were left. All 15 were filled with doubt as they wondered why 15 people remained when only 10 would be recruited.

After making them wait for about an hour, Xiang Shaoyun reappeared and announced that from the 15 here, 5 had been disqualified. The five were naturally resentful. It hadn't been easy for them to remain after picking the right answer. What was the meaning of kicking them out like this?

Xiang Shaoyun pointed at one of them and said, "Yu Ming, you're part of the Di Alliance, right? Since when have you turned your back on them?"

Yu Ming's face instantly turned ghastly. He wanted to retort, but he couldn't find his words and simply left silently.

"As for you three, I believe I don't have to say the reason for your disqualification out loud, right?" Xiang Shaoyun said.

The three left with a look of shame on their faces. Although they weren't Di Alliance members, they were members of other factions. Obviously, Xiang Shaoyun had researched their backgrounds.

As for the final person to be disqualified, Xiang Shaoyun explained, "You are too good at hiding your strength. It is quite obvious you're not someone who actually needs the dragon liquid. Am I right?"

Chapter 618: Shang Jifeng Greets the Overlord

The last person to be disqualified was Shang Jifeng, someone within the Serpent Fowl List's top 100. He had always maintained a low profile. He spent most of his time cultivating and had little contact and very few disputes with anyone. At a glance, his cultivation level was peak first-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, but in truth, he had already reached mid first-stage.

Someone with his strength could easily challenge the Jiao Luan List. For some reason, he was here hiding his strength, as if he was afraid that someone would discover his secret. Due to a lack of information, Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to recruit him.

A look of astonishment flashed in Shang Jifeng's eyes as he said, "You're actually able to see my true strength? Your nine-star physique is indeed extraordinary. However, are you kicking me out after learning of my true strength because you are afraid that one day I will overshadow you?"

"It's good to be confident, but it's also important to have the strength to back the confidence," said Xiang Shaoyun expressionlessly.

"You are absolutely right. I hereby challenge you to a duel. If you can defeat me, I will stay and lend you my hand. However, I have to make it clear that I do not have any contribution points to wager for the duel," said Shang Jifeng with a carefree shrug.

His main goal was to witness how strong Xiang Shaoyun actually was. After he left his recent seclusion, he had heard of Xiang Shaoyun's deeds over and over again, including Li Haonan's defeat.

Of course, that was only one of the reasons he wanted to challenge Xiang Shaoyun. His other reason was that both of them were similarly special-recruits picked up by Xiao Wei. Xiao Wei had once praised Xiang Shaoyun before him. Since then, he had wanted to challenge Xiang Shaoyun.

"Forget it. I have no interest in you," Xiang Shaoyun refused flatly.

He already had 10 recruits. Although they seemed slightly lacking when compared with Shang Jifeng, they were still decent recruits. The questions he had asked them might seem simple, but he was judging their souls with his filthless soul. Through their soul undulations, he was able to detect their lies.

And that was how he had selected the 10 recruits he had here. Of course, further observation was required to see if they were really truthful.

After a short thought, Shang Jifeng finally decided to speak his true thoughts, "Actually, both of us are special-recruits of Elder Xiao Wei. That is the reason for my challenge. Of course, if you insist on refusing the duel, I have nothing to say."

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Ok. That is a decent reason. I accept your challenge, but we will fight in a different way."

"How so?" Shang Jifeng asked.

"I can sense that you cultivate the power of wind. Let's compete in speed. If I win, you will join the Overlord Legion and serve me. If I lose, I will give you 10 drops of dragon liquid. Of course, you can even snatch the Overlord title from me if you want," said Xiang Shaoyun confidently.

Shang Jifeng roared with laughter and said, "Hahaha, very well. I accept."

If they had to compete in terms of combat prowess, Shang Jifeng felt it could go both ways. But if it was a competition of speed, he was confident he had a 90 percent chance of winning.

After all, he was a wind cultivator who had also comprehended footwork intent. In fact, he was also known as the Wind of Destruction. Just his nickname made it clear his comprehension of the power of wind surpassed that of many others.

"Ok. Let's do it outside," said Xiang Shaoyun. He could see Shang Jifeng's confidence, but he was filled with confidence as well. He wouldn't have suggested such a method of competition otherwise.

The two headed toward a location within the academy with sparse people and selected a random mountain as their destination. The first to arrive would be the winner. After Shang Jifeng voiced his agreement, the two began.

Like two arrows let loose from a bow, the two shot forth at an astonishing speed. Initially, they were shoulder to shoulder. But as Shang Jifeng displayed his top speed, he started pulling away.

"Xiang Shaoyun, if this is the limit of your speed, that will be very disappointing of you," said Shang Jifeng with a provocative tone before his entire person seemed to blend into the wind. His ethereal figure continued flying forward at a speed so fast his body blurred, leaving behind a trail of afterimages.

Xiang Shaoyun did not dare to hold back, and he quickly stirred the power of the yin devil wind within him. Using the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps and footwork intent, he gave chase.

When Shang Jifeng sensed Xiang Shaoyun catching up to him, a look of astonishment covered his face as he thought, He has actually comprehended footwork intent? Well, it still isn't possible for him to defeat me in speed.

All eight of his stars erupted with power at the same time as he used wondrous footwork to once again pull ahead of Xiang Shaoyun. His cultivation base was higher than Xiang Shaoyun, and he focused only on the power of wind. He had also perfected the first stage of footwork intent, and it worked alongside his high-level footwork technique. He believed that apart from Feng Xiaosha, nobody in Dragon Phoenix Academy could compete against him in terms of speed.

Looks like I need to use my real strength, thought Xiang Shaoyun when he saw Shang Jifeng approach the finish line. Lightning rippled out from his feet, increasing the strength of his legs as his speed went up another notch.

The lightning was a sign that he was pushing the Overlord's Nine Nether Steps to his limit and enhancing the technique with lightning power to create a unique effect. However, he was only able

to slightly shorten the distance between him and Shang Jifeng. At present, the two were moving at even speed. If he didn't take his heavy armor off, catching up seemed impossible.

With victory in reach, Shang Jifeng's face was full of smiles as he turned his head back and looked at Xiang Shaoyun with a toying look. "Xiang Shaoyun, your defeat is already certain."

However, he had barely uttered those words when a change occurred with Xiang Shaoyun yet again. A pair of white energy wings sprouted from his back. With a gentle flap, his speed increased yet again.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

In a flash, Xiang Shaoyun caught up with Shang Jifeng. He then went ahead of Shang Jifeng, placing his foot on the mountain. Shang Jifeng, who was only a step behind, stared at Xiang Shaoyun blankly. Evidently, he had yet to recover from the shock of defeat.

"Thank you for taking it easy on me," said Xiang Shaoyun with his hands cupped. One could say that he had to do all he could to win the race.

Inwardly, he lamented, I was still too careless. If I had taken the armor off at the start, the victory wouldn't have been this close.

When Shang Jifeng recovered, he stepped toward Xiang Shaoyun and bowed in a straightforward manner, "Shang Jifeng greets the Overlord."

Chapter 619: Zhuge Zhantian and Ma Qihao

Xiang Shaoyun was in a good mood after recruiting a powerhouse like Shang Jifeng as his subordinate. He brought Shang Jifeng inside the villa and gave the 10 new recruits a drop of dragon liquid each before solemnly saying, "I don't care what your background is. The moment you join the Overlord Legion, you will be required to obey my leadership and the rules of the Legion. Don't blame me for being merciless if I find anyone violating our rules."

He then allowed them to make their self-introductions, allowing everyone to know each other. Of the 10, 2 of them were worth Xiang Shaoyun's attention. One was Zhuge Zhantian, and the other was Ma Qihao. Zhuge Zhantian was a slightly chubby young man who wasn't very good looking. He looked to be 30 years old, and he had only recently reached the Dragon Ascension Realm.

He did not have the look of an outstanding martial cultivator, and he definitely didn't have the looks to match his name, "Zhantian", which meant "heaven battler". However, he gave Xiang Shaoyun the feeling he was an extremely shrewd person. He was also the only person who had been kept behind from the first batch of applicants.

Ma Qihao had a steadfast face and a sturdy body. He looked like a carefree, straightforward, and generous person. Of the 10, he had the strongest combat prowess. He was only a tiny bit away from reaching second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm and was in urgent need of some dragon liquid to help him advance to the next stage. He was also in the top 100 on the Serpent Fowl List, but since he had offended the Fengsha Gang, he had no choice but to seek protection by joining the Overlord Legion.

The Fengsha Gang was the faction founded by Feng Xiaosha. As for the other eight recruits, each of them had their own unique characteristics, and they were all first-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivators. He split the eight under the commands of Tang Longfei and Shang Jifeng, while Zhuge Zhantian and Ma Qihao were kept under his direct command.

Although the recruits had joined the Overlord Legion, they weren't subjected to any restrictions and were allowed to focus on their own cultivation and works. Of course, when the Legion required help, they had to provide it.

For example, when a member took a mission, they would prioritize working with fellow members. Or if a member was bullied by someone and wanted to take revenge, the other members would need to provide help.

For now, Xiang Shaoyun did not have the time to focus on the eight new recruits. As for Zhuge Zhantian and Ma Qihao, he had the intention to personally develop them and see if he could make them his capable assistants.

That did not mean that he didn't attach any importance to Shang Jifeng. Rather, he couldn't provide Shang Jifeng much help apart from giving him five drops of dragon liquid. So for now, Shang Jifeng was under observation to see if he could get used to his new status as a member of the Overlord Legion.

Currently, only Zhuge Zhantian and Ma Qihao were left in the villa. The others had all left.

"Zhuge Zhantian, are you interested in being the butler of 1 Dragon Villa?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Zhuge Zhantian gave it a thought and answered, "Sure. But when you are not around, Overlord, I hope I can use your cultivation room."

He was quite gutsy to make such a request.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "I'm fine with that. Of course, the premise is that you can do your job well."

Zhuge Zhantian's eyes brightened as he said, "I used to have a dream to become the strongest butler, supervising all the affairs of a powerful clan or sect. I shall start with a villa. I will definitely do the job well!"

Ma Qihao gave him a mental thumbs-up when he heard his response. He thought, This is truly a unique ambition!

The Strongest Butler.

The title had a nice ring to it. Of course, it also gave the impression that the person holding the title was a servant, and a regular person would definitely not wish to be a servant. Zhuge Zhantian was most likely a descendant of a big clan and was a genius cultivator in his own right. For someone like him to have such an ambition, it was truly odd. On the other hand, Xiang Shaoyun had a feeling Zhuge Zhantian had more than one meaning in his words.

The "supervise a big clan or sect" could also be understood as him wanting to become a clan patriarch or a sect master. If that was really the case, then his ambition was truly quite big.

"Good. I'll be looking forward to your excellent performance," said Xiang Shaoyun.

He was not afraid of Zhuge Zhantian's ambitious nature. Only someone ambitious would work hard. In fact, he was more afraid that Zhuge Zhantian would have no ambition and remain a nobody. He was confident he could control Zhuge Zhantian. He wouldn't have kept Zhuge Zhantian by his side otherwise.

He then moved on to Ma Qihao. "Ma Qihao, I can provide you with a sufficient amount of dragon liquid to enter the second-stage. But I also hope you can stay here and become my main guard. What do you think?"

"Sure. But first, after my advancement to second-stage, you will need to fight me and convince me with your strength, Overlord," answered Ma Qihao.

Instead of battling now, he mentioned battling after his advancement. He knew that at the same cultivation stage, he wouldn't be Xiang Shaoyun's match. After all, Xiang Shaoyun had already defeated someone from the Serpent Fowl List's top 10 when he was still a Skysoar Realm cultivator. In fact, there were rumors that he had recently defeated Li Haonan from the Jiao Luan List. Thus, Ma Qihao would only have a hope of winning after his advancement. And if he won, Xiang Shaoyun would no longer be qualified to make him a guard.

"Sure. I accept," said Xiang Shaoyun.

And thus, Zhuge Zhantian and Ma Qihao became temporary residents of 1 Dragon Villa. Since Ma Qihao was going to attempt his advancement, Xiang Shaoyun let him use the villa's cultivation room. When news of it spread, the outsiders lowered their evaluation of Xiang Shaoyun. He was actually giving his subordinate his own cultivation room? So was he going to let his subordinate be the overlord next?

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun did not seem to mind. He had agreed to let Zhuge Zhantian and Ma Qihao use his cultivation room because he did not care about the concept of prestige that outsiders held so dearly. The Overlord Legion was newly established. Now was the time to instill loyalty in the new recruits, and by treating them nicely, their devotion might increase.

Xiang Shaoyun was confident that before long, Zhuge Zhantian and Ma Qihao would no longer request to use his cultivation room. He was confident he could properly instill awe in them. At that point, the two would willingly stay by his side. In less than three days, Ma Qihao managed to advance. It had been quite a while since he had reached the peak of first-stage. Thus, it wasn't hard to reach the second stage with some dragon liquid in hand.

After the breakthrough, he impatiently looked for Xiang Shaoyun for their battle. He was confident he could defeat Xiang Shaoyun and start challenging the Jiao Luan List. Alas, the ultimate result of the battle was that Ma Qihao would have to obediently become the guard of 1 Dragon Villa from now on.

The battle was only witnessed by members of the Overlord Legion, so no outsiders knew the contents of the battle. The battle had also successfully caused all the members to approve of Xiang Shaoyun as their leader. But for Xiang Shaoyun, that much was not enough to awe his new followers. He made a shocking decision—to challenge Di Lin from the Dragon Phoenix List!

Chapter 620: Di Lin Avoiding the Fight

Xiang Shaoyun had Zhuge Zhantian deliver his written challenge to Di Lin. Di Lin occupied 39th place on the Dragon Phoenix List, and his cultivation level had long reached third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. Moreover, it was said that his strength had been growing rapidly recently and he would soon be able to charge into fourth-stage.

Although Xiang Shaoyun had improved rapidly, the difference in their cultivation levels was still rather large. A battle between him and Di Lin seemed rather forced on his part. The news of his challenge shocked the academy.

"Where does Xiang Shaoyun's confidence come from? He actually has the guts to challenge someone on the Dragon Phoenix List?"

"He has been able to challenge those on the Jiao Luan List before he was even a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Now that he is already in that realm, I reckon he really has the strength to challenge the Dragon Phoenix List. Unfortunately, he has decided to challenge the 39th place Di Lin. He's forcing himself too much."

"Isn't that right? If he challenges someone at the bottom of the Dragon Phoenix List instead, he might stand a chance. It won't be an easy fight against someone ranked so high. Don't forget that Di Lin is now a personal disciple of a previous generation elder. That elder has been nurturing him wholeheartedly, whereas Xiang Shaoyun has no master. The gap between the two is quite big, to be honest."

"Regardless, this will still be an intense fight. We will soon know who is the better of the two."

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A large number of Di Alliance members had gathered at Di Lin's villa. They were all there to find out if Di Lin was going to accept the challenge. They naturally hoped that Di Lin would wipe away Xiang Shaoyun's arrogance. But at the same time, they also felt that Di Lin would be lowering his status to accept the challenge of someone like Xiang Shaoyun.

In the villa, Di Lin was seated on the main seat, radiating the bearing of a tyrant. Seated beside him was the beautiful and graceful Xia Yunxi, whom nobody would ever tire looking at. With the written challenge in hand, Di Lin asked indifferently, "Do you think I should accept this challenge?"

Di Tong answered, "Little brother, I think we should put this fight on hold."

Di Tong was one who had headed to the Devil Domain alongside Xiang Shaoyun. He knew that Xiang Shaoyun had some unique tricks up his sleeve that could unleash a rather fearsome might. Di Tong was worried that Di Lin would suffer losses against those tricks.

Di Lin swept a resentful gaze at his elder brother and said, "Please address me as the alliance master here. You think I'm not his match?"

Di Tong had not expected that his little brother would actually put on airs in front of him. With a frown, he said, "I only think it's better for you to be cautious. I went to the Devil Domain with Xiang Shaoyun, so I know about some powerful tricks that kid has. He's not an easy opponent."

At this time, a person standing in front of Di Tong offered, "Alliance master, why don't you let me fight on your behalf? If he can't beat me, how is he qualified to challenge you?"

He had dark skin, looking like human charcoal that made him stand up among his peers. His sharp pair of eyes gave off the feeling that he was an extraordinary individual. He was Zhu Changchuang, a high-grade seven-star physique holder and the number one expert under Di Lin. He was also a top 100 expert on the Jiao Luan List, and his cultivation level was early third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm.

Di Lin gave it a thought and said, "Ok. Changchuang will be in charge of putting down Xiang Shaoyun."

Although he was confident he could defeat Xiang Shaoyun, he believed that his current status was much higher than Xiang Shaoyun's. There was no need to put himself at risk by lowering himself.

More importantly, he had no interest in doing something when he didn't have absolute confidence in succeeding. Thus, it would be a good idea to have Zhu Changchuang test Xiang Shaoyun's strength first. Done with the matter of Xiang Shaoyun's challenge, Di Lin sent everyone away, leaving only him and Xia Yunxi in the room.

"Yunxi, do you think I can defeat Xiang Shaoyun?" Di Lin asked.

Xia Yunxi pursed her lips and answered, "Your cultivation level is two stages higher than him. It won't be hard for you to defeat him."

"Is that what you really think?" Di Lin pressed on, locking his gaze on Xia Yunxi's eyes.

After a slight hesitation, Xia Yunxi said, "I don't think he is a rash individual. Without some confidence, he won't challenge you. As the seventh brother said, perhaps he really has some hidden tricks up his sleeve. It's better for us to be cautious."

"You're right. We grew up together. He might seem rash at times, but a lot of the things he had done were done after deep considerations. This must be a challenge he made after thorough preparations. I can see that you still know him well. Do you regret betraying him now?"

Xia Yunxi shivered slightly before quickly replying with a coquettish voice, "How can you say that about me? He has always been a disappointment since he was a child. He is not the person I like. You are the one I like. If I actually regret what I did, I won't be here with you."

Di Lin smiled. "It's just a joke. Don't take it so seriously."

He then pulled Xia Yunxi into his arms and said, "Yunxi, do you know? As a kid, seeing him having you for himself had always filled me with deep sadness. I had vowed that I would obtain you one day. Now, my wish has been fulfilled. A day will come when I send him to the afterlife as well. The future belongs to us!"

Xia Yunxi leaned into his chest and replied, "Um. I am confident you will be able to do that."

Di Lin looked down at the beautiful face resting on his chest, and an urge came over him to lean over and give her a kiss. Xia Yunxi played along. She shut her eyes and slightly parted her lips, awaiting Di Lin's lips. At this time, a coquettish voice rang out from outside the room, "Junior Di Lin, your senior sister is here. Why aren't you out here welcoming her?"

The voice caused the two to jump off from each other in shock.

Next, a fiery figure strode into the room. The newcomer was a woman about 25 years old. She was beautiful but lacking in comparison with Xia Yunxi. However, she was much stronger than Xia Yunxi, as she was a third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator like Di Lin. Her name was Situ Yan, the granddaughter of Di Lin's master. His master greatly doted on her.

"Senior sister, why are you here?" Di Lin stepped forth and smiled.

Situ Yan jumped into Di Lin's embrace and said, "Why? Don't you want to see your senior sister?"

Xia Yunxi withdrew her gaze when she saw that, feeling like a hand was gripping her heart, and her face turned pale. Di Lin did not see that coming, and a blank expression covered his face.

Of course, he did not dare to push Situ Yan away. Instead, he lightly held her shoulders and said, "Senior sister, is Master summoning me back? If so, we better get going."

He had no interest in setting a fire on his proverbial harem.